Abstract

An electronic document authenticity assurance technique and an information disclosure system both of which can compatibly realize the assurance of the authenticity of disclosure documents and the deletion of information inappropriate for disclosure. An electronic document is divided into constituent elements and an electronic signature is affixed to an arbitrary subset of a set including all the constituent elements. Otherwise, an electronic signature is affixed to data obtained by binding each of the constituent elements to information specifying the relationship between a respective one of the constituent elements and the structure of the electronic document. Otherwise, the hash values of the respective constituent elements are calculated and an electronic signature is affixed to data obtained by binding the calculated hash values together. Otherwise, random numbers generated for the respective constituent elements are bound together, then the hash values of the respective random-numbered constituent elements are calculated, and then an electronic signature is affixed to data obtained by binding the calculated hash values together.